MY DEAREST SELF WITH MALICE AFORE THOUGHT

Volume 10

STORY BY: HAJIME INORYU × ART BY: SHOTA ITO

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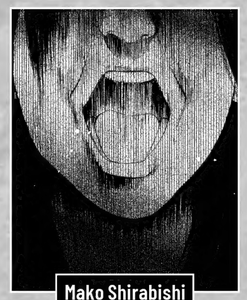
CHARACTERS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

THE SHIRABISHI FAMILY

Rin Shirabishi

(Killed in the LL Murders)



Mako Shirabishi

Shoto Shirabishi

Yoko Hatanaka

(Killed in the LL Copycat Murder)

Killed

Dating (Cooperating)

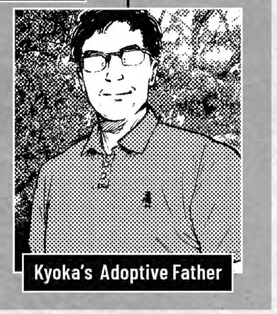
Parent and Child

THE YUKIMURA FAMILY

Kyoka Yukimura

Kyoka's Adoptive Mother

Adopted Family

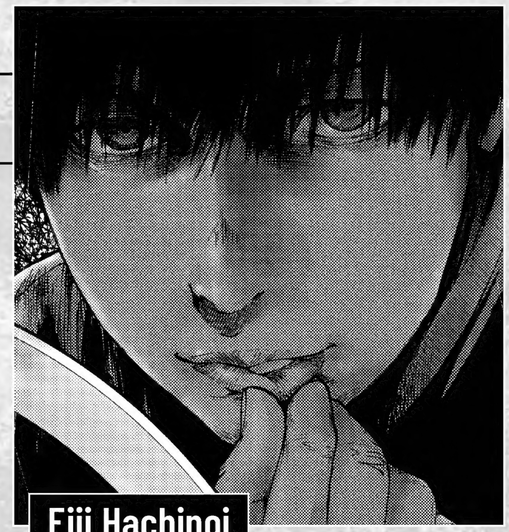


Kyoka's Adoptive Father

Rei Shinmyoji

Cooperating

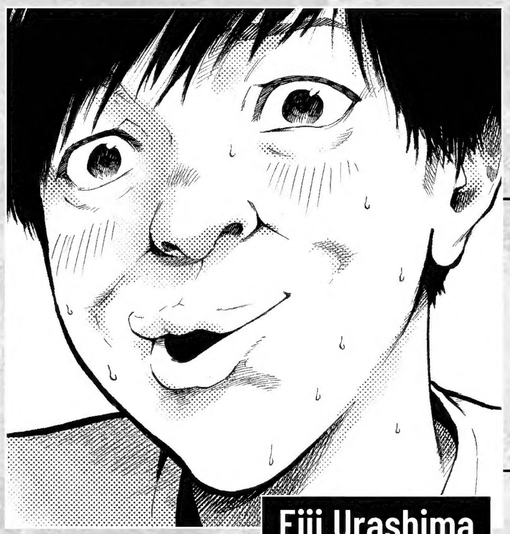
ASSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER



Eiji Hachinoi

(B1)

Parent and Child



Eiji Urashima

Lovers

Close Friends

Kashiwagi

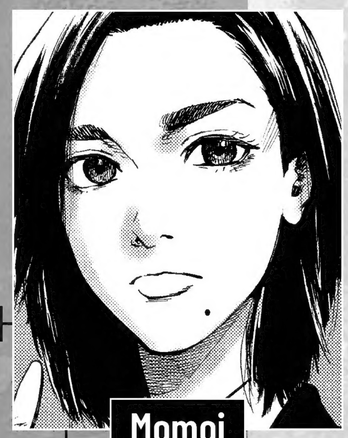
Adopted Family

Probation Officer

S PREFECTURE POLICE

Inukai

Subordinate



Momoi

Superior

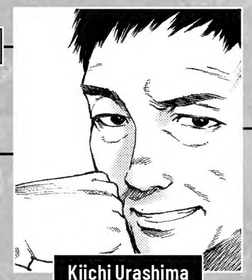
Saruwatari

Killed

Makoto Hachinoi

(The Apparent Killer in the LL Murders)

THE URASHIMA FAMILY

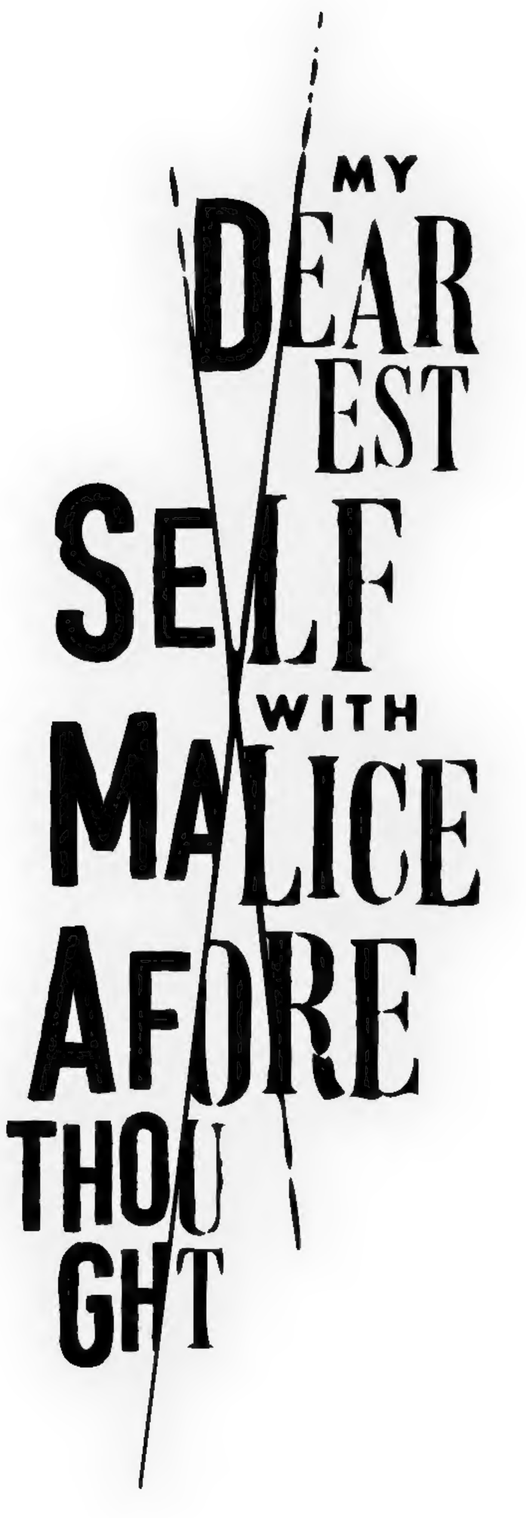


Kiichi Urashima

Tamayo Urashima

Parent and Child

Oto Urashima



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Chapter 81

YOU'RE...

THE SERIAL KILLER LL!

BLRG

BLRG

BLRG

SHK

SHK

SHK

SHK

SHK

SHK

SHLK

SLRSH

SLRPSH

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

NOT SURE HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO REACT...

I'M...

EIJI...

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME...

HOW IS PAIN...

SUPPOSED TO FEEL?

NOT ACTUALLY A *TOTAL* STRANGER TO "PAIN," RIGHT?

YOU'RE...

...

YES, ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS AGO...

YOU BECAME THAT WAY, PROBABLY...

ROUGHLY ONE YEAR BEFORE THE LL MURDERS.

TIME SURE FLIES.

EIJI'S GOT HIM-SELF A GIRL-FRIEND, HUH?

DING DONG

EVER SINCE *THEN,* YOU'VE STARTED *GETTING HURT A LOT MORE OFTEN.*

MAYBE NO ONE'S HOME?

BUT, WELL, IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN SO CLUMSY...

THAT'S WHY I'M ALWAYS GETTING HURT.

BEING UNABLE TO SENSE PAIN MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHEN I'M INJURED...

HE SAID HE'D NEVER SEEN OR HEARD ANYTHING REMOTELY SIMILAR TO THIS.

EVEN THE DOCTOR'S STUMPED.

I JUST NATURALLY BECAME... DULLED TO PAIN.

I WAS NEVER SICK...

AND I NEVER GOT INTO ANY ACCIDENTS.

BUT NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHY OR HOW THIS HAPPENED.

WAS LIKELY DUE TO SOME SORT OF BRAIN INJURY.

THEY SAID THAT THE REASON WHY I LOST THESE SENSES...

IT'S NOT EASY... LISTENING TO YOUR MOM GRIPE ALL THE TIME.

WITH THIS SORT OF BODY, IT BECAME HARDER AND HARDER FOR ME TO HELP OUT AROUND THE HOUSE.

!

CLATTER

YOU MUST BE THIRSTY.

I'LL GET US SOME WATER.

TUNK

GLUG

GLUG

GLUG

CLACK

CLACK

TOK

CREAK

EIJI...

I MUST SAY...

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT OF A STRETCH...

TO ACCUSE ME OF *BEING LL* JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T FEEL PAIN?

I DO SEE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...

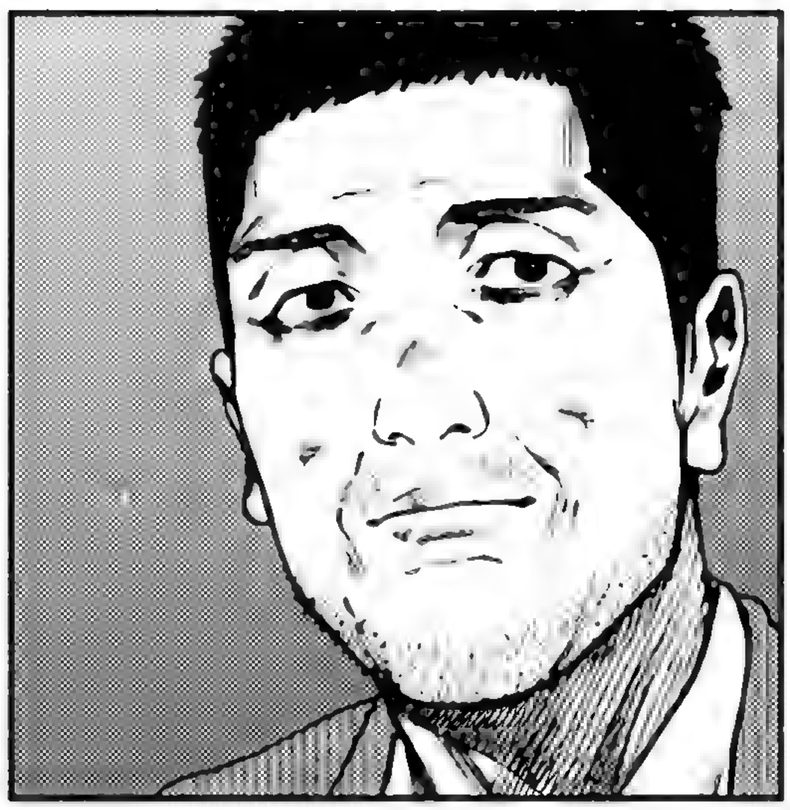
IT DOES *SOUND* LIKE I HAVE A MOTIVE...

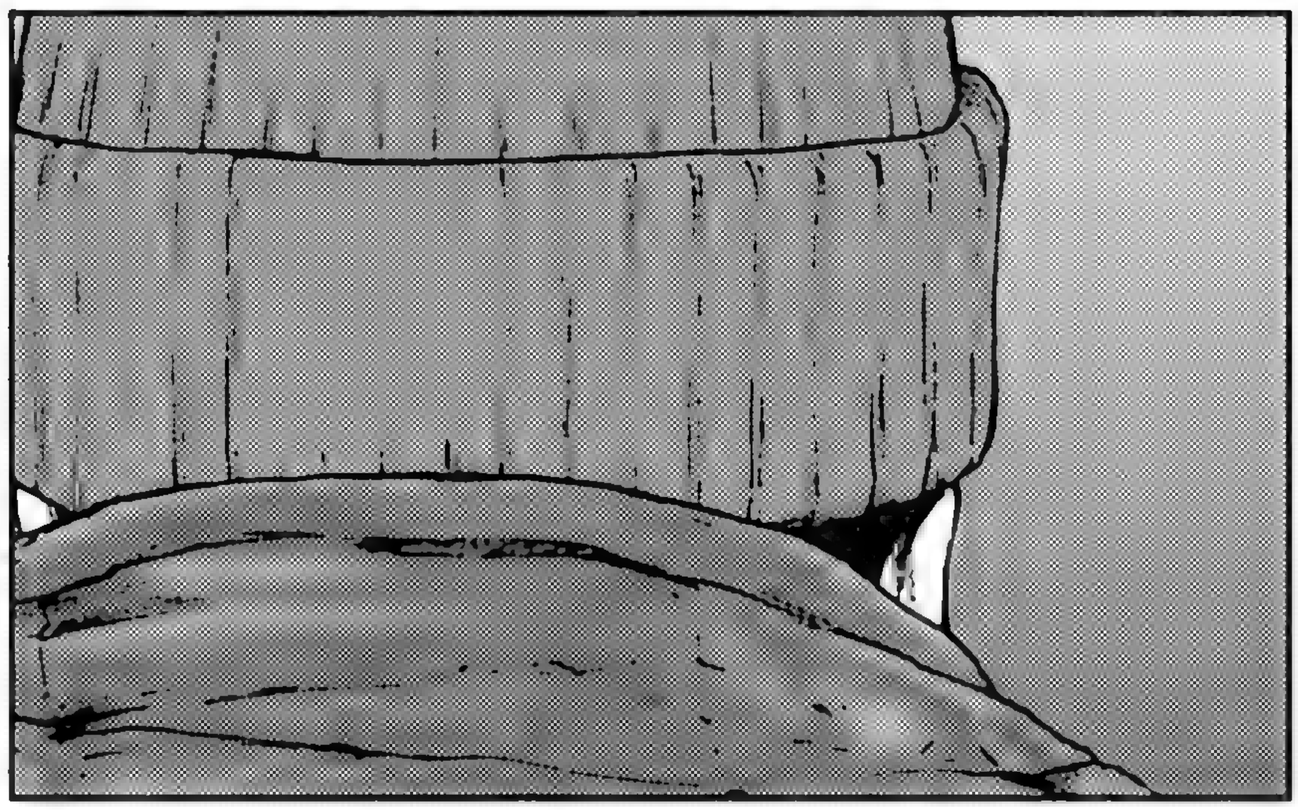
JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE CAN'T FEEL PAIN, THEY WOULD TURN INTO A TWISTED SERIAL TORTURER AND MURDERER WITH A PERVERSE SENSE FOR PAIN?

BUT...

YOU SEE...

BEING *ABLE* TO COMMIT THOSE CRIMES TIME AND TIME AGAIN IS A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY.





WHAT DO HUMANS TEND TO DO WHEN THEY COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH THEIR OWN DEATH?

YOU'VE SEEN PLENTY OF PEOPLE DIE. YOU CAN ANSWER THAT, CAN'T YOU?

...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

lid it all for revenge

I WAS... ABOUT READY TO GIVE UP.

WAS IT ALL...A... LIE...?

HA HA HA HA HA!

I ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT THERE MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN... A REAL CULPRIT...

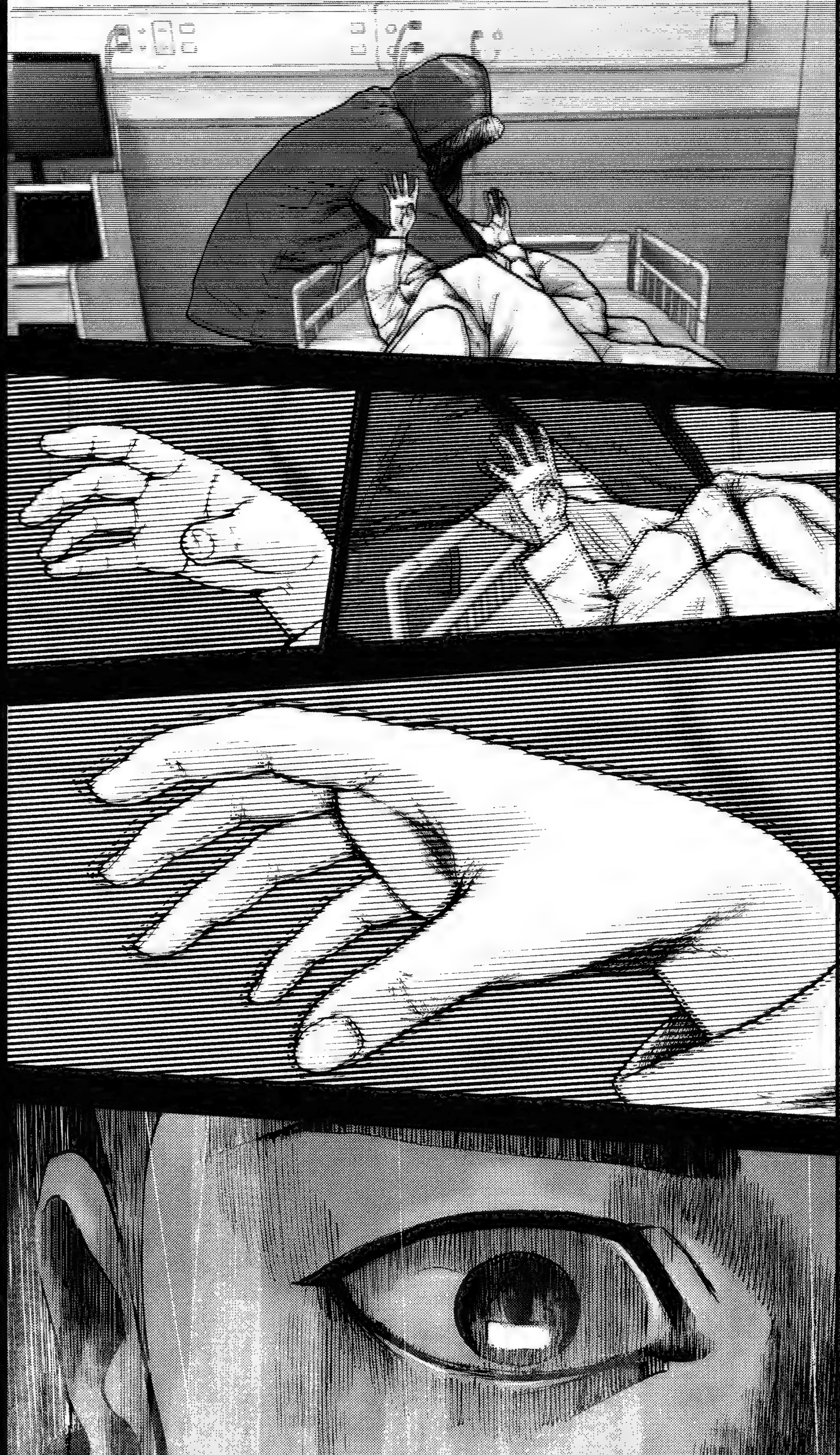
SWP

BUT...

JUST LIKE A BROKEN MACHINE...

I PLAYED *THIS* SCENE...

OVER AND OVER AGAIN...



WHEN SHE WAS STARING DEATH IN THE FACE...

DID NOT EVEN *ATTEMPT* TO PUSH HER ASSAILANT AWAY.

KYOKA YUKI-MURA...

INSTEAD, SHE WAS REACHING OUT, TRYING TO *GRAB ONTO SOME-THING.*

I WAS IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF DESPAIR.

BUT...

STILL, I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM THIS LAST, FINAL HINT.

JUST *WHAT*... WAS SHE REACHING OUT FOR?

Chapter 81 END

Chapter 82

LL...

I THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A CLUE...

THAT IT *MEANT SOME-THING...*

THAT ODD REACTION KYOKA YUKIMURA HAD WHEN SHE WAS JUST MOMENTS FROM DEATH...

OR, RATHER I SHOULD SAY...

THAT'S WHAT I *WANTED TO BELIEVE...*

THAT THE DIRECTION WHERE HER HAND WAS REACHING OUT TO...

MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING *SOMETHING* THAT WOULD BRING ME A STEP CLOSER TO FINDING THE TRUTH...

CREAK

RIP

JUST A SINGLE PHONE NUMBER, WRITTEN ON A PAPER SCRAP.

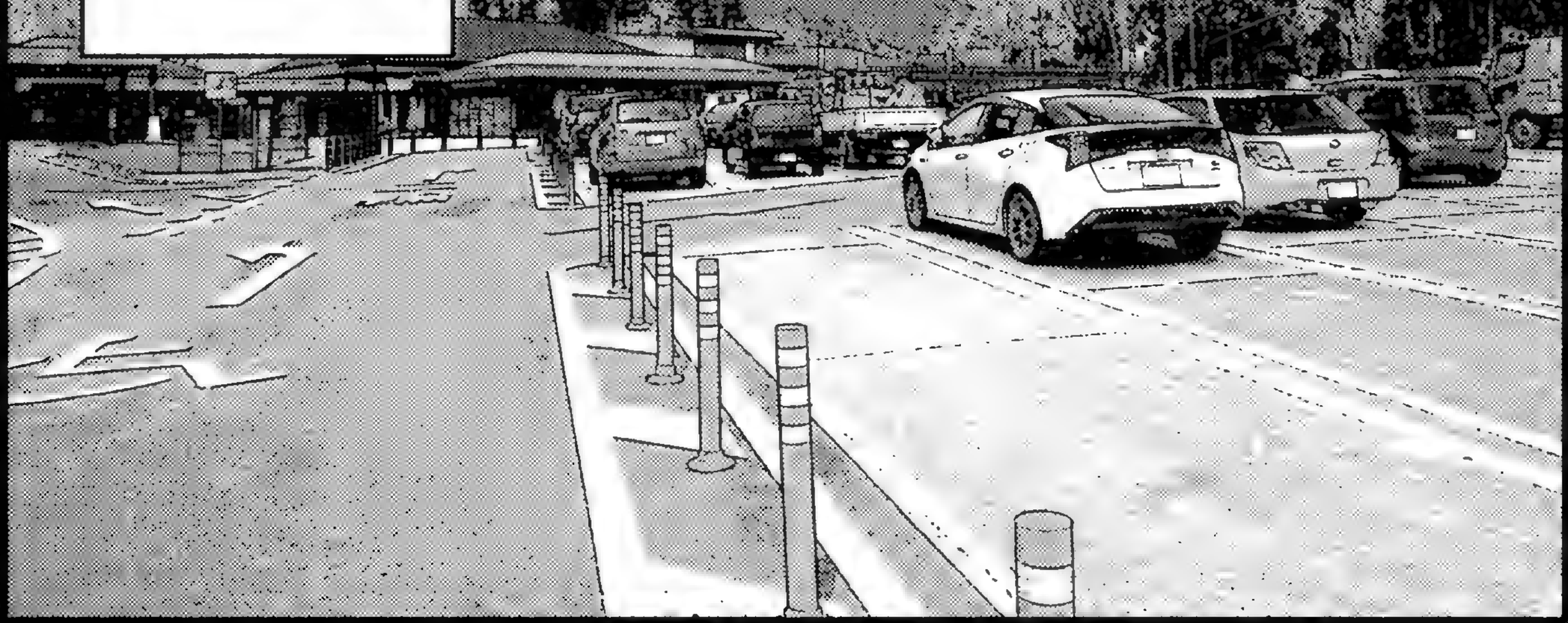
IT WAS A PHONE NUMBER.

ONCE I DID SOME RESEARCH ON THE NUMBER...

...IT BROUGHT ME TO A SPECIFIC PLACE.

SO SHE COULD *MEET SOMEONE.*

THAT WAS WHERE KYOKA YUKIMURA WENT ON NOVEMBER 15TH, AFTER BORROWING HER FATHER'S CAR...



THIS IS THE PLACE SHE COULD ONLY REACH BY CAR.

OF COURSE ...

EXCUSE ME.

SACHI OBATA-SAN?

ARE YOU...

DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME TO TALK?

YES...?

YES, I AM.

CLICK
カチッ

OH...

SORRY, IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I SMOKE?

I DON'T MIND.

PHWOO
フゥー

BUT I DON'T REALLY WATCH TV, SO I CAN'T SAY I KNOW MUCH ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING...

YOU'RE ASKING ABOUT... KYOKA YUKIMURA-SAN?

I HEARD SHE'S IN A TERRIBLE STATE RIGHT NOW.

NO...

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY. I'M NOT.

I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANY-THING MESSY. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

ARE YOU A DETEC-TIVE?

WHEN SHE CAME HERE TO MEET YOU ON NOVEMBER 15TH.

ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT YOU AND KYOKA YUKIMURA-SAN TALKED ABOUT...

OH, GOOD-NESS.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, SON.

I'LL PAY YOU FOR WHAT YOU CAN TELL ME, OF COURSE.

HOKKAI-DO...?

SHE ASKED ME ABOUT MY TIME IN HOKKAIDO.

I HAD A STORE IN HOKKAIDO FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

IT WAS JUST A SMALL BAR.

...

SHE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GIRL WHO WORKED FOR ME BACK THEN...

AND THOUGH I SAY THAT...

ONE DAY, I SUDDENLY LOST ALL CONTACT WITH HER.

IT'S BEEN RADIO SILENCE SINCE THEN...

SHE JUST UP AND GHOSTED ME.

I BARELY REMEMBER HOW SHE LOOKED.

SO, REALLY...

HER NAME WAS MANA...

BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS A FAKE NAME.

I TRIED SCROLLING THROUGH SOME OLD PICTURES WITH YUKIMURA-SAN...

AND ONE OF THEM JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE "MANA" IN THEM.

"THIS IS THE PERSON WHO I'M LOOKING FOR."

THAT'S ALL SHE TOLD ME.

FIFTH VICTIM

FAMILY
FATHER MOTHER

- RIN SHIRABISHI
- STUDENT AT THE COLLEGE
- THE BODY WAS DISCOVERED TWENTY DAYS BEFORE
- THE LAST VICTIM OF THE LL MURDERS

RIN SHIRABISHI...!

WENT MISSING FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...

ON MARCH 19TH.

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORTS...

THE FINAL VICTIM OF THE LL MURDERS, *RIN SHIRABISHI*...

A SECURITY CAMERA CAUGHT FOOTAGE OF HER WITH MY *FATHER*, MAKOTO HACHINOI.

AROUND THE TIME SHE DISAPPEARED...

IN AN *ABANDONED BUILDING IN S PREFECTURE.*

SHORTLY AFTER, SHE WAS SEEN *CONFINED*...

AFTER A SERIES OF TORTURE, LL FINALLY KILLED HER.

ON MARCH 29TH...

SWP

IT WOULD BE TOTALLY *IMPOSSIBLE* FOR YOU TO MURDER RIN SHIRABISHI ON MARCH 29TH...

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, FROM MARCH 24TH TO THE 31ST...

YOU WERE ON A FAMILY VACATION TO *HOKKAIDO.*

WHILE SHE WAS CONFINED OVER 600 MILES AWAY IN ANOTHER CITY.

11
FLAP
SUPPOSEDLY, THAT IS.
THIS IS THE PHOTO...

THAT I MENTIONED EARLIER...

SHOWING THAT RIN SHIRABISHI WAS IN HOKKAIDO FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

NOW, LOOK AT THE *DATE* OF WHEN IT WAS TAKEN.

WAS ACTUALLY, *FOR SOME ODD REASON,* IN *HOKKAIDO.*

RIN SHIRABISHI, *WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CONFINED IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING IN S PREFECTURE AT THE TIME...*

ON MARCH 24TH...

SHE WAS WELL WITHIN THE RANGE OF YOUR DEADLY HANDS.

SO...?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE?

THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE AN *ALIBI.*

Chapter 82 END

Chapter 83

YOU'RE RIGHT, I HAVE NO FOOT TO STAND ON ANYMORE.

I SEE...

SO IS THIS REALLY ALL YOU WANTED TO SAY?

THAT STILL LEAVES A LOT UN-ANSWERED.

REI SHIN-MYOJI...

YOU KNOW THAT NAME, DON'T YOU?

TIED UP IN THE ABANDONED BUILDING.

THAT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, ON *MARCH 23RD*...

SHE *SAW* RIN SHIRA-BISHI...

SHE'S TESTIFIED TO ME...

BUT, THE REAL TRUTH IS...

RIN SHIRABISHI WAS ACTUALLY IN *HOKKAIDO* ON THE *24TH*...

PERFECTLY UNHARMED.

WELL, THAT WOULD BE...

WHO WAS IT THAT WAS BOUND AGAINST HER WILL IN THE ABANDONED BUILDING IN S PREFECTURE?

SO THEN, *WHAT DID* REI SHINMYOJI SEE?

THE "SIXTH VICTIM"...

WHOSE BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.

A SIXTH...

VICTIM?

THERE WERE ONLY *FIVE* DEATHS THAT WERE REPORTEDLY CARRIED OUT BY LL.

BUT THAT ALSO MEANS THAT...

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY HAVE KILLED MORE THAN WHAT THE POLICE COULD FIND.

YOU FIRST...

MADE IT LOOK LIKE RIN SHIRABISHI HAD *DIS-APPEARED* ON MARCH 19TH...

BUT ALL YOU DID WAS SEND HER TO HOKKAIDO.

AROUND THAT TIME...

YOU FOUND ANOTHER WOMAN WHO LOOKED A LOT LIKE RIN SHIRABISHI...

AND YOU KIDNAPPED HER...

AND LOCKED HER UP IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING...

IN S PRE-FECTURE.

NOT ONLY DID YOU ALSO ALTER THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

YOU THEN LEFT RIN SHIRABISHI'S ID CARD AND BELONGINGS IN THE ROOM.

YOU ALSO *LET* THE YOUNG REI SHINMYOJI SEE THE TORTURED WOMAN.

ALL THIS, SO REI SHINMYOJI WOULD TESTIFY TO SEEING RIN SHIRABISHI BEING CONFINED IN THAT BUILDING...

AND HER WORD COULD BE USED TO STRENGTHEN YOUR OWN ALIBI.

AND YOU ALSO FOUND OUT THAT SHE OFTEN TRESSPASSED INTO THAT VERY BUILDING.

YOU DISCOVERED THAT RIN SHIRABISHI HAD A CLOSE, YOUNG FRIEND...

IS EITHER BECAUSE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE YOUNG GIRL DIRECTLY FROM RIN HERSELF, OR THAT YOU'VE DONE YOUR RESEARCH ON THE PEOPLE AROUND HER.

THE REASON WHY YOU CHOSE HER TO BE YOUR WITNESS...

THUS, SHE KEPT EVERYTHING SHE SAW A SECRET...

BUT BEING SO YOUNG, REI SHINMYOJI ***WAS SCARED*** OF LL. SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM TO SEEK HIS REVENGE IF SHE TALKED.

FOR ALL THESE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

OH...
SO THAT MEANS...

THAT WOMAN WASN'T...RIN SHIRABISHI...

YOU KILLED THE SIXTH VICTIM AND HID HER BODY ELSEWHERE.

ONCE YOU'D CONFIRMED THAT REI SHINMYOJI HAD FLED THE BUILDING...

AND MET WITH RIN SHIRABISHI THERE.

AFTER THAT, YOU WENT TO HOKKAIDO UNDER THE PREMISE OF A FAMILY VACATION...

THEN...

YOU...

KIDNAPPED AND CONFINED HER...

YOU TORTURED HER...

AND YOU KILLED HER ON THE 29TH.

HOW COULD I HAVE TRANS-PORTED HER BODY BACK...

AND HOW WOULD I HAVE HANDLED THE BODY?

WHEN MY FAMILY WAS WITH ME ON THAT TRIP?

YOU RENTED A CAR.

AND YOU TRANSPORTED RIN SHIRABISHI'S BODY IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR RENTED CAR.

YOU MADE SOME SORT OF EXCUSE, SAYING THAT YOU HAVE OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO...

BUT ON THE RETURN TRIP, ONLY MOM AND OTO FLEW BACK.

THE THREE OF YOU FLEW TO HOKKAIDO BY PLANE.

I CAN JUST ASK MOM NOW AND CONFIRM MY THEORY, IF YOU'D LIKE.

THAT'S HOW YOU DID IT, RIGHT?

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? WILL YOU BE OKAY DRIVING BACK ALONE?

DEAR...

IT'S FOR WORK, SO WHAT CAN I SAY?

DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF OTO.

I'LL BE FINE.

I'M SORRY THAT YOU TWO HAVE TO FLY BACK WITHOUT ME.

COME ON NOW, OTO!

TIME TO GET UP.

CREAK

I'LL BRING THE LUGGAGE BACK WITH ME TOO.

THANKS.

WE BETTER HURRY OR WE'LL MISS OUR PLANE!

KER-TAK

パタン
PA-TAMP

YEAH. STAY SAFE.

TAKE CARE, YOU TWO.

BYE-BYE, DADDY.

YOU BURIED RIN SHIRABISHI'S BODY IN THE MOUNTAINS IN Y CITY, S PREFECTURE.

THEN, ON THE WAY BACK TO YOUR HOUSE...

DID YOU DISPOSE OF HER BODY IN A DIFFERENT AREA, USING DIFFERENT METHODS.

BUT ONLY FOR THE SIXTH VICTIM...

FIRST VICTIM

SECOND VICTIM

THIRD VICTIM

FOURTH VICTIM

FIFTH VICTIM

YOU'VE ALREADY BURIED FOUR OTHER VICTIMS IN THAT SAME AREA.

THEY COULD ONLY FIND FIVE BODIES.

JUST AS YOU PLANNED, THE POLICE FELL FOR YOUR TRICK...

YOU RETURNED TO THE ABANDONED BUILDING AND LEFT SOME PROOF FOR THE POLICE TO FIND. NAMELY, A SHEET, WITH RIN SHIRABISHI'S BLOOD ON IT.

BUT ONCE YOU'D REALIZED THAT...

SHE NEVER REPORTED WHAT SHE SAW TO THE POLICE.

THE ONLY ERROR IN YOUR SCHEME WAS REI SHINMYOJI. ALTHOUGH YOU WANTED TO USE HER AS A WITNESS...

YOU DIRECTED THE POLICE TO CONCLUDE THAT RIN SHIRABISHI WAS DEFINITELY CONFINED INSIDE THE ABANDONED BUILDING IN S PREFECTURE AND TORTURED UNTIL HER DEATH THERE.

THEN, ALONG WITH ALL THE "CLUES" YOU'D LEFT...

AND ALL SUSPICION WAS CAST STRAIGHT AT MY FATHER, MAKOTO HACHINOI.

JUST AS YOU PLANNED, THE WHOLE INVESTIGATION STEERED CLEAR OF YOU...

PAFF

PAFF

PAFF

PAFF

PAFF

THAT WAS INDEED IMPRESSIVE.

YOU TRULY ARE...

MY SON.

Chapter 83 END

Chapter 84

TO THINK...

YOU'D ACTUALLY MAKE IT THIS FAR...

BACK THEN, YOU WERE JUST A TINY LITTLE SCAMP...

BUT...

I STILL...

CAN'T GIVE YOU *FULL MARKS* JUST YET.

ギ GRIND GRIND ギ

YOU KNOW THAT TOO, RIGHT?

ギ GRIP ギ

THERE IS STILL...

A LOT THAT CAN'T BE EXPLAINED.

HOW COULD A PLAIN, OLD MAN LIKE ME...

CONVINCE A YOUNG LADY LIKE HER TO GO ALL THE WAY TO HOKKAIDO TO MEET ME?

FOR INSTANCE ...

WHAT IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH RIN SHIRABISHI?

WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO *NOVEMBER 14TH.*

TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION...

ON NOVEM-BER 14TH...

KYOKA YUKIMURA CAME AND VISITED THIS VERY HOUSE.

THAT WAS WHEN KYOKA FIRST MET YOU.

SHE SAW YOUR INJURY...

OR, I SHOULD SAY...

SHE SAW *THE VARIOUS INJURIES YOU'VE RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS* WHEN SHE LOOKED AT OUR OLD PICTURES.

THAT'S WHEN HER SHARP SENSES NOTICED...

YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY BE...

BUT YOU'VE GOT AN ALIBI.

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT ALIBI, YOU *CAN'T* BE LL.

KYOKA CAME TO THE EXACT SAME CONCLUSION AS ME.

BUT...

THE SERIAL KILLER, LL.

KYOKA YUKIMURA HAD *THIS* UP HER SLEEVE.

013-29-VA

AND THAT PHONE NUMBER BELONGS TO A CERTAIN SACHI OBATA, WHO MANAGED A BAR UP IN HOKKAIDO FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

HAD BUT A SINGLE PHONE NUMBER WRITTEN ON IT.

THIS PIECE OF SCRAP PAPER I FOUND IN KYOKA'S HOSPITAL ROOM...

AND LEARNED THAT YOUR ALIBI DIDN'T HOLD UP.

FROM THIS PHONE NUMBER, KYOKA TRACKED DOWN SACHI OBATA...

THANKS TO THIS *EVIDENCE...*

THAT KYOKA YUKIMURA *LEFT BEHIND...*

THEN...

I FINALLY MADE MY WAY TO *YOU.*

HOW DID KYOKA GET HER HANDS ON THIS PHONE NUMBER?

THERE IS ONE LAST QUESTION REMAINING.

HOW-EVER...

IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, THE PENMAN-SHIP...

ALSO *DID NOT BELONG TO KYOKA HERSELF.*

IT'S WRITTEN ON A WORN-OUT, CRINKLED PIECE OF PAPER.

IT'S CLEARLY OBVIOUS THAT THIS *WASN'T WRITTEN RECENTLY.*

SO, I HAD TO LOOK INTO WHERE IT COULD'VE *COME FROM.*

I THOUGHT THAT THIS PIECE OF PAPER WAS A CLUE TO SOMETHING BIGGER...

CREAK

WOULD BE HERE, IN KYOKA YUKIMURA'S CHILDHOOD HOME...

THE ONLY PLACE I CAN THINK OF...

SWFFF

WAS FOUND HIDDEN INSIDE THE CLOSET.

THIS PIECE OF PAPER...

IF I'M RIGHT...

THE YOUNG KYOKA YUKIMURA...

WAS TRYING TO KEEP IT HIDDEN...

WHAT IF SOMEONE FINDS OUT ABOUT YOU?!

INSIDE HER DARK, CRAMPED *WORLD...*

THIS PAPER...

COULD VERY WELL BE FROM...

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF WITH NOWHERE TO GO...

AND YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO OTHER CHOICE...

CALL THIS NUMBER.

KEEP THIS FROM MOM.

ONCE YOU'VE MEMORIZED THIS NUMBER, GET RID OF THE PIECE OF PAPER.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

I'M SO SORRY...

KYOKA...

MATCHED UP WITH KYOKA YUKIMURA'S OLDER SISTER, RIN SHIRABISHI'S, HANDWRITING.

PA-TAMP

パタン

THE PENMANSHIP...

IT WAS RIN SHIRABISHI WHO GAVE IT TO HER JUST BEFORE SHE WENT MISSING.

THIS PAPER... WAS GIVEN TO KYOKA FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

AH, I SEE...

BUT...

HOW DOES THAT CONNECT ME WITH HER?

SHE WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE TO HOKKAIDO THAT VERY DAY...

RIN SHIRABISHI'S SUDDEN DISAPPEAR-ANCE WAS *PLANNED.*

WITH YOUR AND MY FATHER'S ASSISTANCE.

Chapter 84 END

Chapter 85

HEY THERE...

RIN.

YEAH.

IS THAT ALL YOU'RE BRINGING WITH YA?

GREAT. THEN LET'S GET GOING.

YOU WORRIED?

...

WE'VE SAVED A BUNCH OF OTHER GIRLS JUST IKE YOU AND—

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.

EASE UP.

URASHIMA-SENSEI WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU ONCE WE GET THERE.

?

I'M... DISGUST-ING...

FOR RUNNING AWAY BY MYSELF...

I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT HER WITH ME...

RIN SHIRA-BISHI...

SHE HAD ALWAYS...

FELT *GUILTY* FOR HOW HER YOUNGER SISTER SUFFERED.

TO THE POINT WHERE SHE WOULD CARE FOR THE YOUNG GIRL IN THE NEIGH-BORHOOD, WHO WAS THE SAME AGE AS KYOKA...

REI SHIN-MYOJI...

LIKE SHE WAS *HER OWN SISTER.*

ALL SHE COULD DO WAS *PRETEND* AND AVERT HER EYES FROM REALITY.

PLUS, HER FATHER WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ACCOMPLICE TO THAT ABUSE.

BACK AT HOME, HER MOTHER WOULD *ABUSE* KYOKA UNDER BROAD DAYLIGHT.

WITH HER TWISTED FAMILY SITUATION, SHE HERSELF BEGAN TO ERODE FROM THE INSIDE.

SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE "OBEDIENT" ELDEST DAUGHTER, YET SHE BEGAN TO SELL HER BODY.

SO THAT ONE DAY, HE COULD HELP CHANGE HER LIFE.

HE HIRED RIN SHIRABISHI TO WORK AT HIS SHOP.

WHEN MY FATHER, MAKOTO HACHINOI, DISCOVERED HER FAMILY SITUATION...

AND TO MAKE THAT COME TRUE...

HE RELIED ON THE ONE PERSON WHO CHANGED *HIS* LIFE...

HIS VERY OWN PROBATION OFFICER... *YOU.*

ALL OF THE VICTIMS WERE SUFFERING SOME SORT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE.

THIS PAST MONTH, AS I RETRACED THE STEPS OF MY INVESTIGA-TION...

ALL THE OTHER VICTIMS WERE SUF-FERING THE SAME SITUATION, WEREN'T THEY?

RIN SHIRA-BISHI WASN'T THE ONLY ONE HE HELPED.

THEY WERE ALL "WOMEN WHO ESCAPED THEIR HOMES."

BECAUSE OF THEIR FAMILIES, THEY'D LOST THE ONLY PLACE THEY COULD CALL THEIR OWN.

THE REASON WHY ALL OF THE PROOF POINTED AT MY FATHER WAS BECAUSE...

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS CAUGHT FOOTAGE OF MY FATHER NEAR WHERE THEY WERE LAST SEEN.

WHEN EACH GIRL WENT MISSING...

FOR ARRANGING HOW THE VICTIMS WERE GOING TO *FLEE THE NIGHT.*

HE WAS RESPONSI-BLE...

AS FOR YOU...

YOU WERE ARRANGING THEIR NEW PLACE TO LIVE AND JOBS THEY COULD DO ONCE THEY'D ESCAPED.

JUST *PRETENDING* TO HELP THE GIRLS...

BUT... YOU WERE...

URASHIMA-SENSEI...

HOW DO THINGS LOOK? SHE GONNA BE OKAY?

SHE SEEMED A LITTLE DEPRESSED. I'M A BIT WORRIED.

DID YOU ALREADY MEET RIN?

Yeah, I did.

Oh, great!

SHE'LL BE FINE. THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

THEY STILL CONTACT ME EVERY NOW AND THEN. THEY'RE ALL LIVING THEIR BEST LIVES.

How are the other girls doing?

URASHIMA-SENSEI...

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

ALL THIS WAS BECAUSE OF YOU. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED I DO THIS.

I DID A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...

BUT NOW, I CAN FINALLY ATONE FOR AT LEAST SOME OF WHAT I'VE DONE.

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

WELL, ISN'T THIS SUD-DEN?

IT'S... JUST...

I'M SO HAPPY, Y'KNOW?

JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW EVEN I COULD HELP SOMEONE...

...

YEAH...

You never gave up on me...

And you've watched over me all this time.

I'm really, really grateful for everything you've done.

HEARING YOU SAY THAT MAKES EVERYTHING I'VE DONE...

WORTH IT.

TO TAKE THE GIRLS' LIVES.

USED AND TRAMPLED ON MY FATHER'S FEELINGS...

THAT'S HOW YOU...

AND THEN, AS A FINAL THANKS, YOU PINNED IT *ALL* ON MAKOTO HACHINOI.

THERE YOU GO. FULL MARKS...

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
YOU'RE STILL
NOT THERE
YET.

AT LEAST,
THAT'S
WHAT I'D
LOVE TO
TELL YOU.

BECAUSE
HE WANTED TO
HELP SOMEONE,
OR TO ATONE
FOR ANY OF
HIS SINS.

DIDN'T
SAVE ALL
THOSE
GIRLS...

YOUR
FATHER,
MAKOTO
HACHINOI...

ALL HE WAS
TRYING TO DO
WAS LIE TO
HIMSELF...TO
LOOK AWAY
FROM THAT
REALITY.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
HOW YOU
DRESS IT
UP...

THE
MISERABLE
REALITY IS
THAT THE
WOMEN WERE
USED LIKE
LIVESTOCK AND
HAD TO SELL
THEMSELVES
FOR MONEY.

HE DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT THAT ABOUT HIMSELF.

ONCE A DELINQUENT, ALWAYS A DELINQUENT.

EVEN AFTER HE BECAME AN ADULT, AFTER HE HAD A KID...

HE WASN'T...

THAT GREAT OF A PERSON...

HE WASN'T THAT GREAT OF A *FATHER* THE WAY YOU MAKE HIM OUT TO BE.

NOW, *THAT* ANSWER...

WOULD'VE GIVEN YOU FULL MARKS.

Chapter 85 END

WHY...

DID YOU DO IT?

YOU CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING IN THAT ICE-COLD HEART OF YOURS?

IS IT BECAUSE...

WHY DID I DO IT...

I MUST ADMIT, IT'S SOMETHING I'VE QUESTIONED MYSELF BEFORE.

AND WHEN I WATCH MOVIES, I HAVE ENOUGH OF A HEART TO CRY, TOO.

WELL...

I CAN GET ANGRY IF I'M PLACED IN AN UNREASONABLE SITUATION...

CREAK

BUT I SUPPOSE, IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS BEHIND IT.

IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN JUST BECAUSE I HAVE A "DULLED SENSE OF PAIN."

I THINK...

I WAS JUST... ***BROKEN*** FROM THE BEGINNING.

HAD ALWAYS BEEN "UNCERTAIN" SINCE I WAS BORN.

I...

IT FELT LIKE EVERYTHING AROUND ME WAS UNREAL... LIKE A BADLY WRITTEN *FICTION.*

I'VE ALWAYS FELT LIKE "I'M NOT REALLY HERE."

THAT'S WHY, WHEN I WAS A KID...

I DISSECTED A STRAY CAT OUT OF PURE *CURIOSITY.*

WHEN THE AGONY OF DEATH INCHED EVER CLOSER, THE CAT'S CRIES REVERBERATED WITH ME EVEN MORE THAN REALITY.

WHEN I TOUCHED THE CORPSE...

I FELT... *AT EASE.*

WAS *DEATH* ALONE.

THE ONLY THING...

THAT COULD FILL MY EMPTY SOUL...

I WAS ALWAYS A STEP AWAY FROM CROSSING THE LINE, AND I HELD MY GROUND.

BUT EVEN SO, SOMETHING HAD ALWAYS BEEN HOLDING ME BACK.

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR MY INTERESTS TO GO FROM ANIMALS TO *HUMANS.*

BUT THAT'S WHEN I LOST ALL SENSE OF PAIN.

A SIGN THAT GOD...

WAS TRYING TO PUSH ME FORWARD.

THAT WAS A *SIGN.*

WHEN-
EVER I
TORTURED
ANYONE...

I COULD
FEEL THE
"PAIN" I
HAD LOST.

I FELT
ALIVE.

BEING
REFLECTED
OFF OF THE
PUPILS OF
THOSE NEAR
DEATH.

I COULD
SEE THE
REALITY
WHERE I
EXIST...

I WAS *EMPTY* ONCE AGAIN.

HOW-EVER...

IN THE END, I GOT *BORED* OF THIS PASTIME OF *KILLING PEOPLE.*

I'VE CONSUMED THE FINAL MOMENTS OF *COUNTLESS VICTIMS.*

AND REALITY BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR FROM EVEN HUMAN DEATH.

I HAD TO FIND A NEW *PASTIME.*

IN ORDER TO FILL THE VOID INSIDE ME...

THAT WAS WHEN I CAME UP WITH THE PERFECT IDEA.

AND...

WHICH WAS...

TO SCATTER MY *VOID*...

ACROSS THE WHOLE WORLD.

THE ONLY THING THAT WILL BE LEFT UNDER THE BLAZING SUN...

WHEN THAT HAPPENS...

TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN...

I BUILT UP THIS FAKE STORY OF A SERIAL KILLER, *LL.*

AND MY PROTAGONIST IS, OF COURSE...

MAKOTO HACHINOI.

WILL BE *THE TRUTH OF THIS WORLD,* OVERFLOWING WITH *FRAUD* AND *DECEPTION.*

WHY ARE THE POLICE AFTER ME?!

URASHIMA-SENSEI!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

I'm asking a police friend of mine to explain just what is going on.

This has to be some sort of terrible mistake. I'm sure of it.

Calm down, Makoto.

ONE OF THE BODIES THE COPS FOUND...IT WAS RIN, WASN'T IT?

SENSEI...

Who could've done this?!

Why would... she be...

DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT I'M SAYING...

I DON'T KNOW...

BUT YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME. DON'T MOVE FROM THAT HOUSE.

TOMP

MAKOTO?

To my dearest

from Makoto Hachinoi

AKA

the serial killer,

If you catch me,

LL

HE NEVER ONCE DOUBTED ME. NOT EVEN TO HIS LAST BREATH.

HE WAS SO TRUSTING... SO *STUPID.*

WAS HOW THE WORLD PLAYED UP THIS STORY EVEN *MORE* THAN I HAD PLANNED.

BUT WHAT WAS SO *AMUSING...*

AND OF COURSE, A NUMBER OF THINGS DID NOT GO AS PLANNED.

TO MAKE MAKOTO OUT FOR BEING *THE SERIAL KILLER, LL.* IT WAS... *RIDICULOUS.*

EVERY PERSON BEGAN TO PUSH THIS NARRATIVE...

"THE WORST SERIAL KILLER IN HISTORY."

"A DEMON WITH NO BLOOD NOR TEARS."

THE THING THAT SURPRISED ME MOST...

BUT...

OF *MY SERIAL KILLER LL* STORY.

WAS *YOU,* WHO WAS A CHARACTER BORN AS A BY-PRODUCT...

PA-TAMP

YOU WERE SHUNNED BY SOCIETY. YOU WERE NO LONGER NEEDED BY ANYONE. I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING AND YOU WERE ALREADY WRITTEN OUT OF THE PLOT.

BUT...

I THOUGHT OF KILLING YOU AT ONE POINT.

...

JUST LIKE ME, YOU CREATED A FAKE LIFE TO LIVE.

WHAT'S MORE, EVEN *YOU* WERE TRYING TO AVERT YOUR EYES FROM *REALITY.*

I KNEW ALL ALONG.

THAT'S RIGHT...

...

I KNEW *EVERYTHING*, AND I STILL TOOK YOU IN.

I KNEW YOU WERE SEEKING REVENGE.

I KNEW YOU HAD A SPLIT PERSONALITY.

YOU'RE WONDERING WHY, AREN'T YOU?

THAT'S BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO WATCH IT ALL UNFOLD *FROM THE FRONT SEAT.*

TO SEE HOW YOUR *FAKE LIFE...*

HOW *MY SON,* THIS *OTHER MASTERPIECE* OF *EIJI HACHINOI AND EIJI URASHIMA...*

WOULD END.

WHO SUITED EACH OTHER *PERFECTLY.*

WE WERE A *FAKE FAMILY...*

THIS CHARADE OF A TRAGEDY THAT *WE,* THE POOR MAKOTO HACHINOI AND HIS EVEN MORE PITIFUL SON, AND I...

ACTED OUT TOGETHER FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS WAS TRULY... ENJOYABLE.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, THAT THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS...

THANK YOU...

HAVE BEEN SO *FUN.*

EIJI.

Chapter 86 END

OH...

RIGHT, RIGHT...

Chapter 87

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT *KYOKA YUKIMURA,* TOO.

THIS WHOLE COPYCAT MURDER WAS A SURPRISE EVEN TO ME.

FIRST...

I NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR. SHE WAS *NOT* MY ACCOMPLICE. WE NEVER WORKED TOGETHER.

JUST LIKE YOU GUESSED, KYOKA YUKIMURA FIGURED OUT MY REAL IDENTITY VERY QUICKLY...

BUT...

I WAS JUST GOING TO WATCH AND SEE HOW THINGS PANNED OUT...

AND SHE CAME TO ME HERSELF.

ON NOVEMBER 18TH...

SHE ASKED ME TO COME OUT TO HER FAMILY HOME.

SHE WAS GOING TO MAKE US MEET, GIVING US ONE FATHER AND SON SURPRISE.

SHE APPARENTLY HAD IT ALL PLANNED OUT.

SHE WAS GOING TO REVEAL *THE TRUTH...*

REVEAL *WHO I AM* RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

BUT, BEFORE SHE COULD...

...

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

ENDED UP BRINGING YOU EVEN *FURTHER* FROM THE TRUTH.

THE HEAVY DEBT OF REVENGE THAT YOU OWED OTO...

...ll for revenge.

Oto Urashima reveals her motives and everything she did that led to the stabbing

...

THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO REMEMBER IS TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

DO YOU...

...RE-MEMBER THIS?

DO YOU...

FEEL *REGRET* FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO OTO?

THERE'S NO NEED.

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE.

I...

WON'T BLAME YOU OVER SOME-THING *SO SMALL.*

WHOO.

BAM

WHY...

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE *MY DAD...?*

THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT.

OH.

IF YOU WANTED TO MAKE A SERIAL KILLER...

YOU COULD'VE CHOSEN *ANYONE...*

JUST A SIN

DO THOSE TATTOOS MEAN ANY-THING?

MAKOTO?

I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR A WHILE NOW, BUT...

I KINDA GOT CARRIED AWAY BACK WHEN I WAS A DELINQUENT, Y'KNOW...?

AND THE WORDS JUST SOUNDED COOL. THAT'S ALL.

OH, THESE THINGS?

NAH, THERE'S NO REAL MEANING BEHIND 'EM.

KILL

"KILL"...

JUST A SIN

"JUST A SIN"...

JUST A SIN / KILL

JUST

...

JUST A SIN / KILL

SA・TSU・JI・N・KI

JIN...

SA...

KI...

TSU...

SATSUJIN-KI...*

*SATSUJINKI LL = SERIAL KILLER LL

LL...

LL

HMGH-MHM...

HAAA HA HA HA HA!!

I'M A GENIUS, AREN'T I?

THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO GIVE MAKOTO HACHINOI THE ROLE OF THE PROTAGONIST IN MY TRAGIC PLAY.

TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, THERE WERE ***PLENTY OF OTHER PEOPLE*** THAT I COULD'VE USED TO PLAY ***THE MAIN CHARACTER*** OF THIS STORY.

BUT WITH SUCH A PROFOUND ***COINCIDENCE,*** IT'D BE A WASTE NOT TO USE HIM.

PLIP

to

ti

n

...

...

WE'RE JUST ABOUT DONE WITH THIS CONVER-SATION... AREN'T WE?

EIJI...

DID YOU GET A CLEAR RECORDING OF EVERY-THING I SAID?

REALLY *HAVE* PROOF, DO YOU?

YOU DON'T...

THAT I WAS THE REAL CULPRIT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

YOU HAVE NOTHING INCRIMINATING TO PROVE...

YOU WERE RECORDING OUR WHOLE CONVER-SATION.

THAT'S WHY...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

BUT, I MUST SAY...

WHAT GOOD IS PROOF NOW?

ARE YOU GOING TO HAND ME OVER TO THE POLICE?

DO YOU REALLY *WANT* THE COURTS TO JUDGE ME?

YOU'RE...

YOU DON'T, RIGHT?

HERE TO KILL ME, AREN'T YOU?

Chapter 87 END

KA-
TNK

Chapter 88

CRACK

CLATTER

CLATTER

BAM

PFFT. HEH.

FI'

THUMP

YEAH...

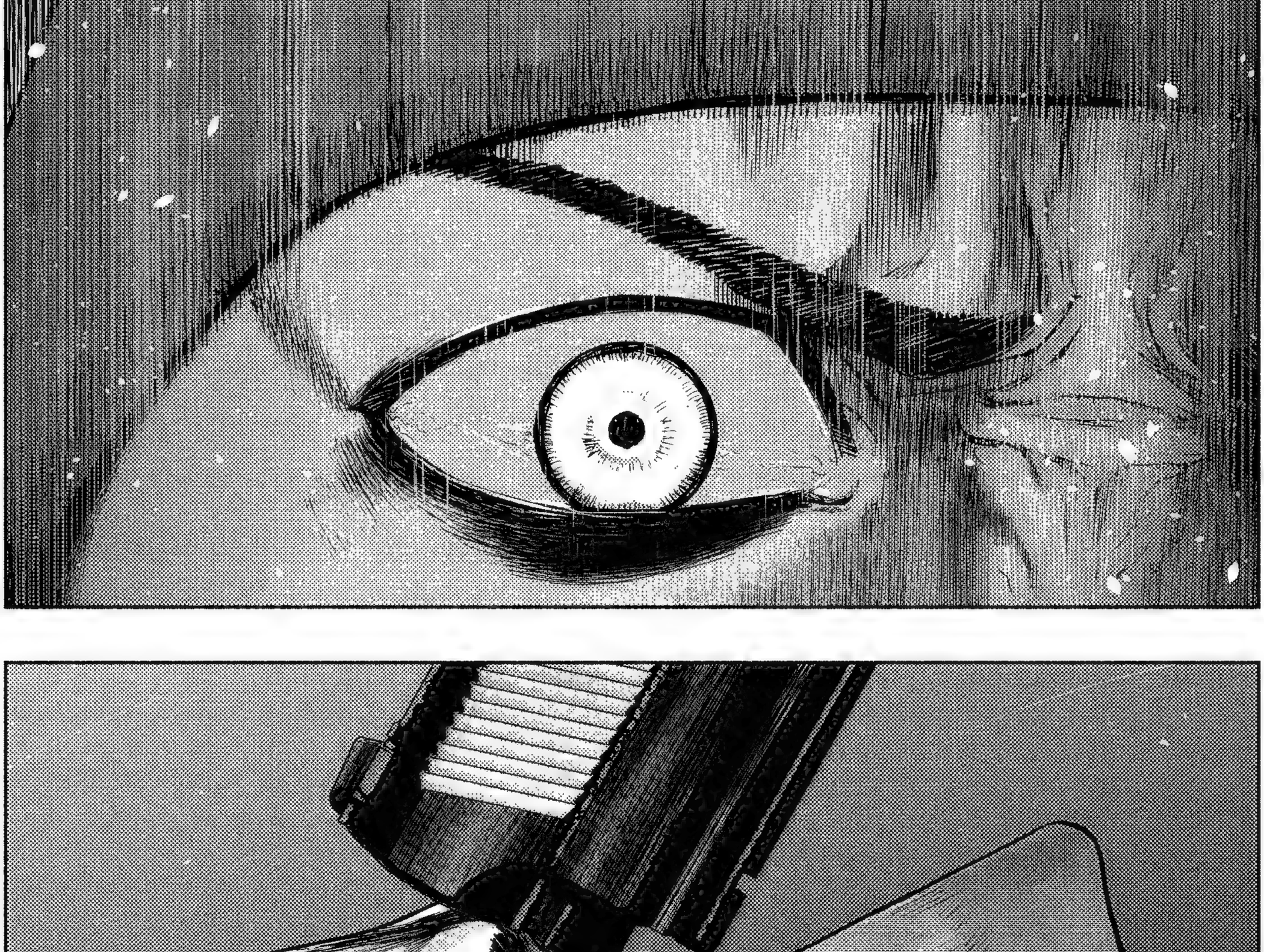
YOU'RE RIGHT...

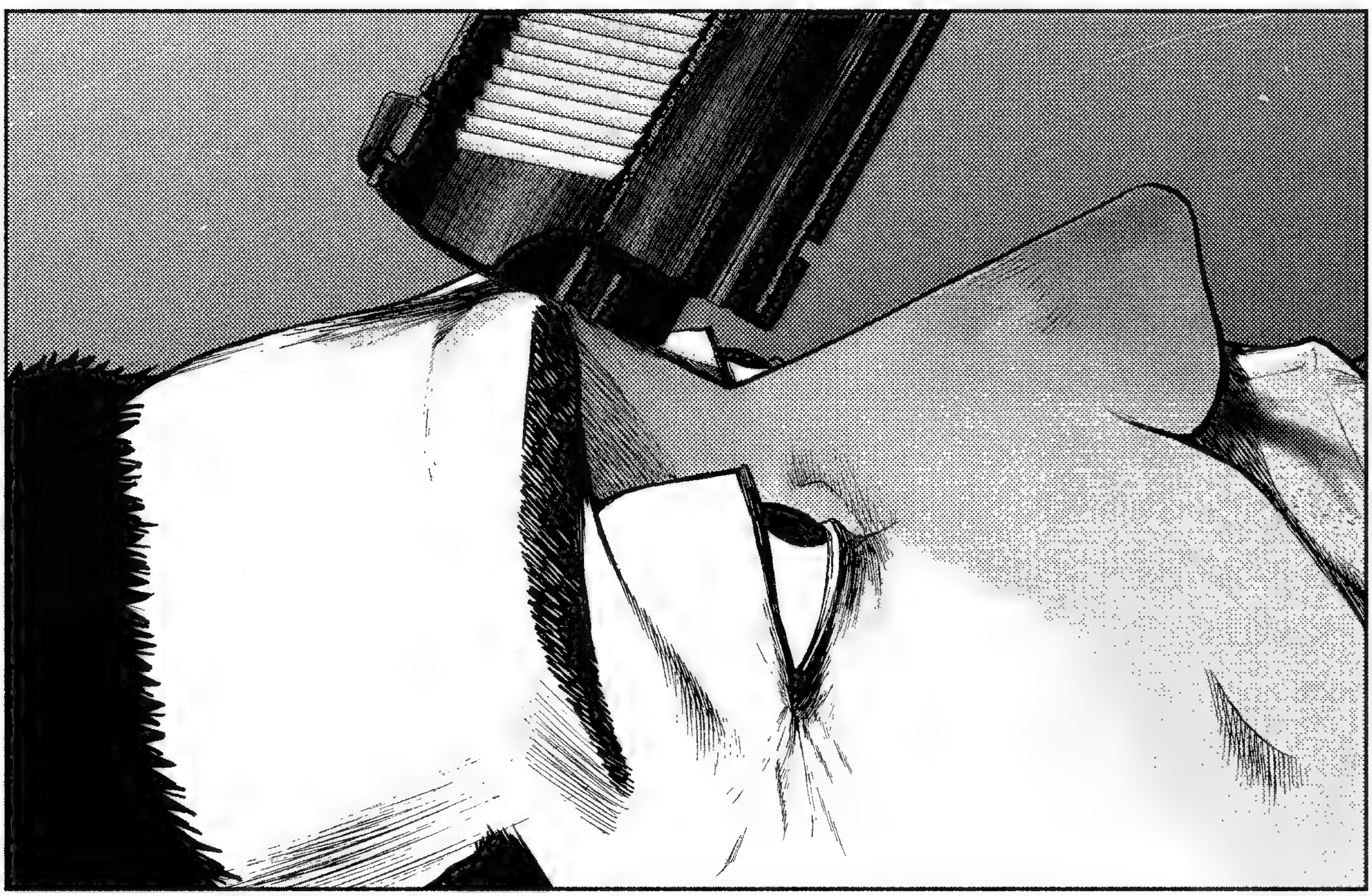
GRAB

KER-CHAK

I'M...

HERE TO END YOUR SORRY LIFE!!





I'VE...
ALWAYS BEEN PLAYING WITH IDEAS ON HOW TO END THIS STORY.

WAS I GOING TO PRESENT *THE GREAT REVEAL* OF LL'S INNOCENCE?

HOW...

BUT, LUCKILY FOR ME... *I MET YOU.*

ALTHOUGH WE'RE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD...

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU...

AS MY *VERY OWN* SON THAT I *PAINSTAKINGLY* BIRTHED.

JUST LIKE HOW OEDIPUS SLAUGHTERED KING LAIUS.

AND NOW, MY "SON" IS GOING TO KILL ME.

THE "TRUTH" WILL FINALLY BE EXPOSED TO THE WORLD.

FINALLY, AFTER FIFTEEN LONG YEARS...

THEN...

HOW... WONDERFUL.

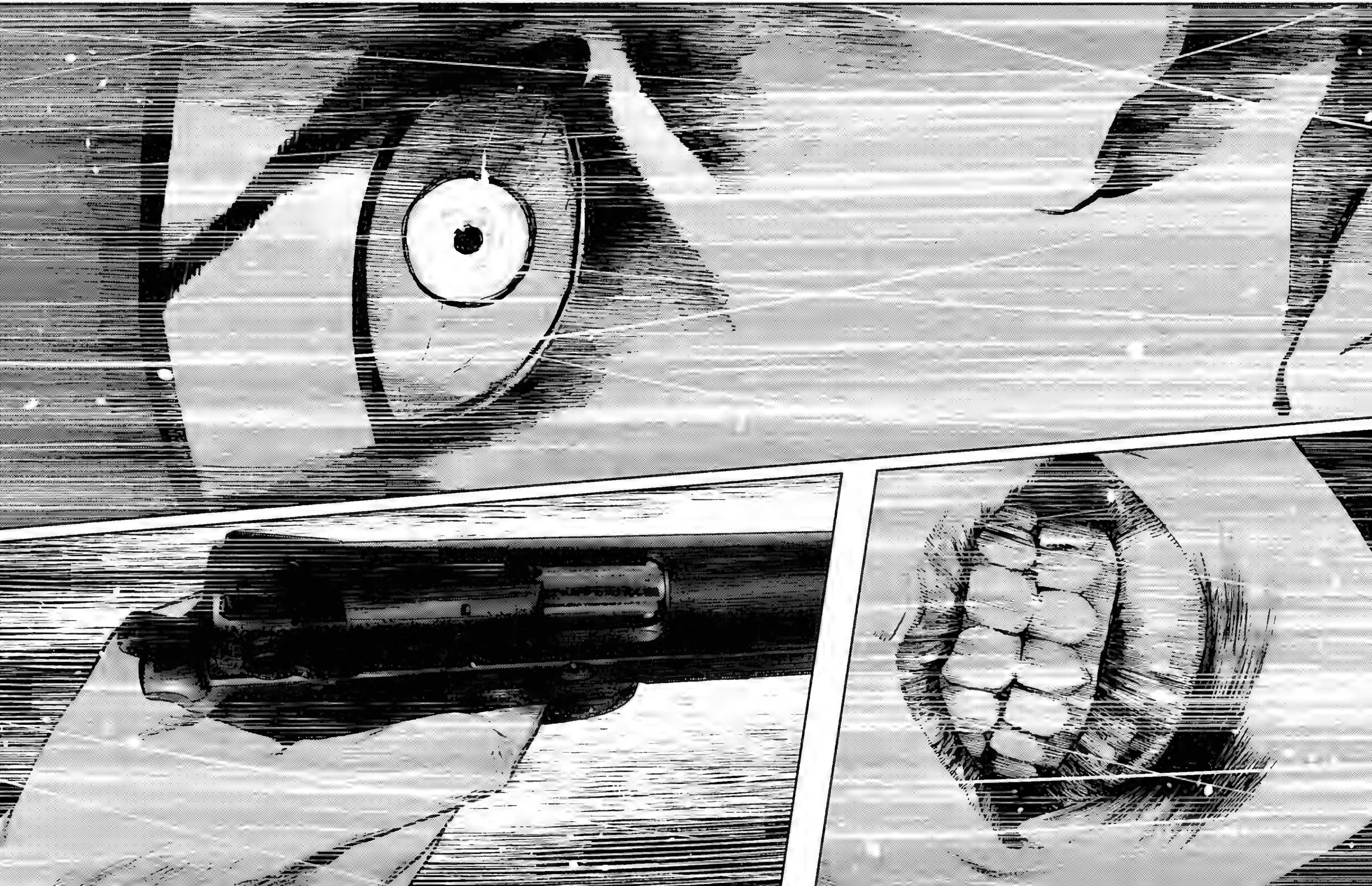
THIS IS A FITTING END TO THE EPIC I'VE PENNED.

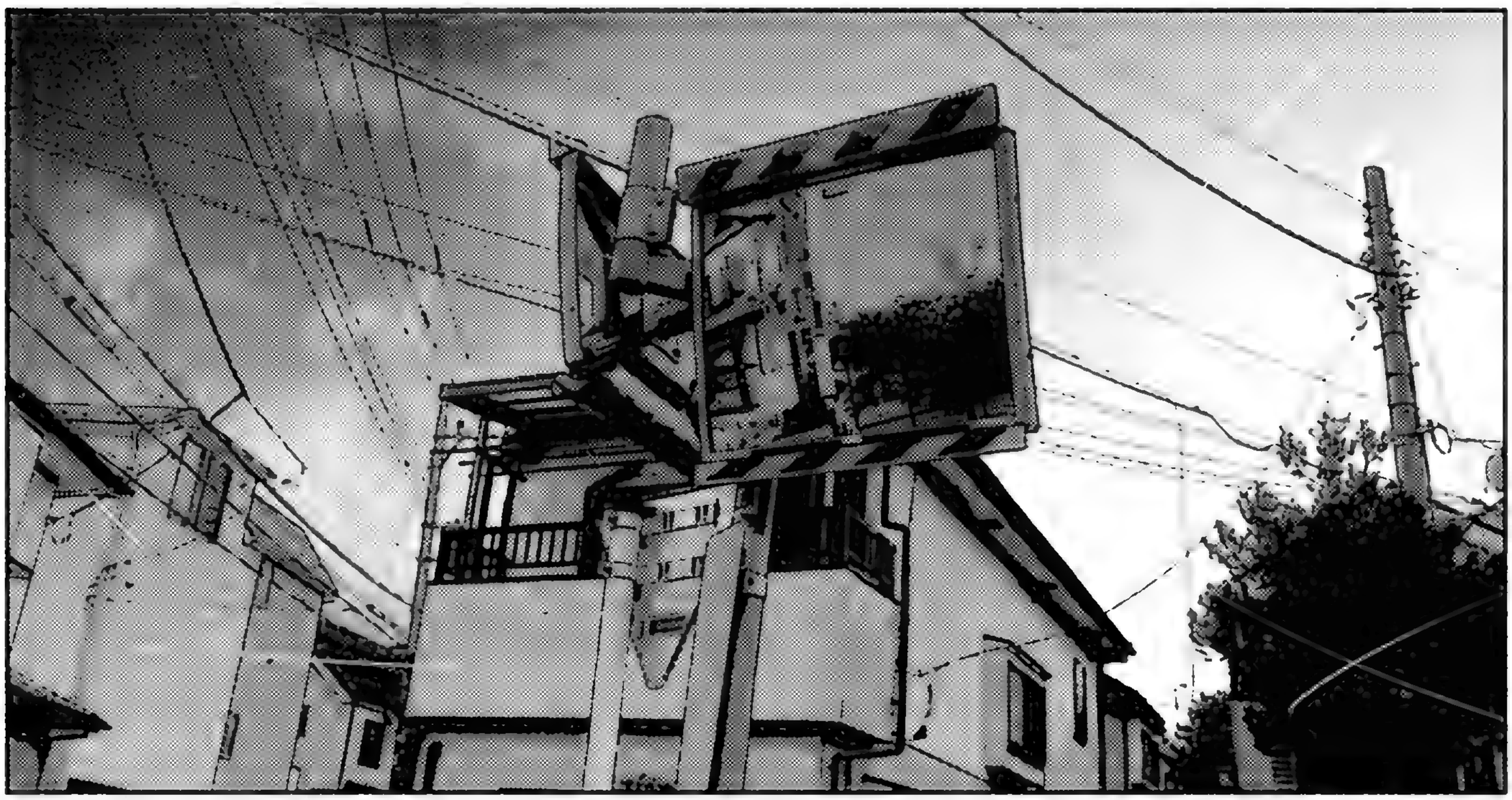
EIJI...

END IT FOR ME.

END IT ALL...

WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS.





BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

Chapter 88 END

My Dearest Self With Malice Aforethought
Volume 10 END

ART ILLUSTRATIONS

The following is the collection of some of the art that the illustrator, Shota Ito, had posted on his twitter (@shota_itooooo) to announce the final volume of the story.

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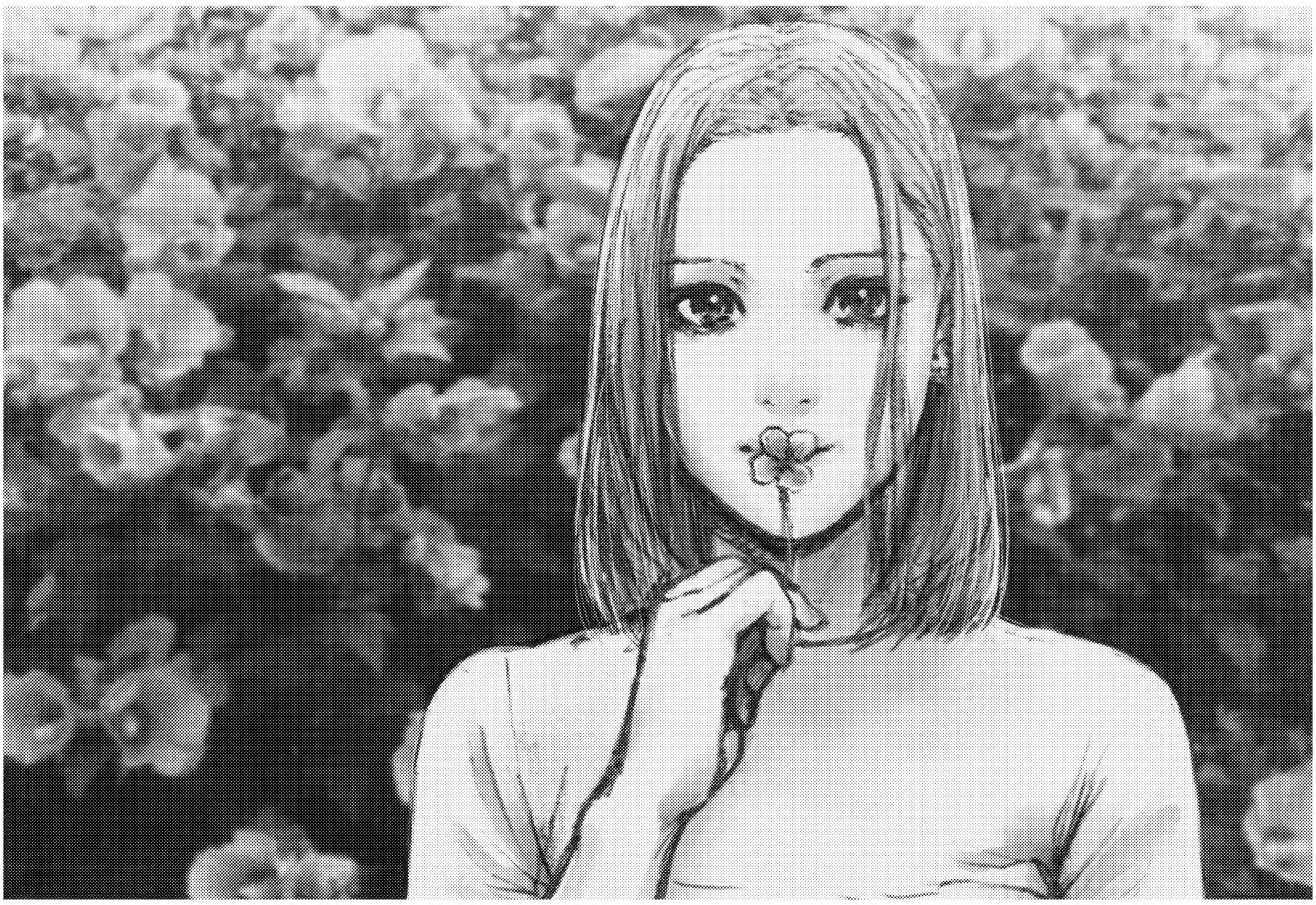

My Dearest Self with Malice Aforethought 10

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